Mobile phone users

†2574. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile phone users in the rural and urban areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of users likely to be increased during the current financial year; and

(c) the reasons for increase in the number of mobile phone users and decrease in the demand of basic (Landline) telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, for providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS), the country has been divided into 4 Metro City Service Areas and 19 Telecom Circle Service Areas (total 23 service areas). A subscriber of CMTS belongs to the whole of service areas and not to a particular city/town/village in the service area. As such the Service Areas cannot be categorized into rural and urban areas. For providing CMTS, Uttar Pradesh (East) and Uttar Pradesh (West) Telecom Circle Service Areas cover Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal States. As intimated by Cellular Operators Association of India on behalf of the Cellular Operators, the total number of CMTS subscribers in these two Service Areas were 346490 and 575630 respectively as on 30.6.2003.

(b) No target has been fixed on the CMTS Licensees for providing CMTS connections. As seen from the growth rate in CMTS subscribers in the country during the last few years, a growth of 90-100% is expected during the current financial year.

(c) World-wide, increase in the number of new wireless/mobile phone users is higher than the number of new landline phone users. The same trend is visible in our country also. This is mainly because wireless/mobile phones provide the facility to a subscriber to be contacted at all times and all places, where the coverage of service is available.

Loss of registered letters

2575. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.